

Trappe's By-Laws as Printed in 1860

The Maryland Code : Public General Laws and Public Local Laws, 1860
Volume 145, Volume 2, Page 870
TALBOT COUNTY. ART. 20.
TRAPPE.

187. The inhabitants of the town of Trappe, in Talbot county, are a body politic by the name and style of "The Commissioners of Trappe," and by that name may sue and be sued, may make and use a corporate seal, and break or alter the same at pleasure, and may make and enforce all such by-laws and regulations for the government of said town, not contrary to law, as they may deem proper.

188. The bounds and limits of Trappe shall be as follows: Beginning at a locust tree standing at the north-east corner of E. P. Mullikin's house yard and running thence to the north-east corner of C. E. Mullikin's barn, thence with a straight line touching the north-east corner of Robert H. Kemp's garden till it meets a line drawn from the south-west corner of Mrs. Rachel Bowdell's lot, to include the Methodist Protestant church; from the corner of Mrs. Rachel Bowdell's land to T. E. Lloyd's barn; thence to Samuel Hennessy's barn, and thence to the place of beginning; and the commissioners of said town, or a majority of them, may survey, locate and plat the said limits, and establish the same by durable boundaries, and may survey, locate and plat all lots, squares, streets, lanes, ways and alleys in said town, and such other lands or grounds as may be ceded for the benefit of said town.

189. The said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall, after their election, assemble at some time and place of which notice shall be given by a majority of their number, and appoint a clerk, who may or may not be a member of their own body, and who shall take an oath before some justice of the peace for Talbot county well and faithfully to discharge the duties of his office.

190. The said commissioners shall also at the same time and place choose one of their own number president of the board, who shall have the privilege of voting upon all matters before the board, and the clerk shall administer to each one of said commissioners, and to all other officers appointed by them, an oath well and faithfully to discharge the duties of his office.

191. The board of commissioners shall be composed of five, of whom any three or more shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and any of them may meet and enforce the by-laws upon delinquent members.

192. In case of a vacancy from any cause, the remaining commissioners, or a majority of them, may fill such vacancy until the next annual election.

193. An annual election for commissioners shall be held on the first Saturday in June in each year, at which any two or more of said commissioners shall be judges; their clerk

shall give notice thereof at one or more of the most public places in said town, at least one week before, and shall attend and keep record of the election under the direction of the judges, and notify those elected of their election.

194. If the election shall fail, or from any cause be prevented, on that day, it may be held on any subsequent day after one week's notice given by the clerk.

195. No person shall vote or be eligible to office at any such election, unless he be a white male citizen, twenty-one years of age, and either a resident of said town for six months previous to the election, or holding property and paying town taxes in said town for that time.

196. The said commissioners may appoint a bailiff and all other necessary officers for the said town, prescribe their duties and fix their compensation, may require from their clerk and officers by them appointed a bond, in such penalty as they may determine, for the faithful performance of the duties of their respective offices, and may at any time remove said officers and appoint others in their place.

197. The clerk shall keep a full minute of all the proceedings of said commissioners in a well bound book to be provided by them for that purpose.

198. The bailiff shall preserve order, keep the peace, serve process, abate nuisances, and execute all orders of the board of commissioners, and shall have power to command the peace, arrest offenders, collect moneys due the corporation, and do all such acts and perform such duties as may be ordained by the board of commissioners, as fully as a constable within the limits of said town, and in matters pertaining to its government.

199. All property of every kind, whether real, personal or mixed, within the limits of said town, except such property as may be expressly exempted by law, shall be subject to taxation by the commissioners of Trappe.

200. The clerk to the commissioners shall enter, in a suitable book, the names of all property holders in said town, whether they be residents or non-residents of the town, and the commissioners shall ascertain as fully as possible from all reliable sources the items, description, kind and marketable cash value of the property belonging to each individual, and direct the clerk to enter the same in said book under the names of the respective owners thereof; and the commissioners may add to or deduct from the amount of this assessment, and shall appoint certain days, and give public notice thereof, at least one week before, to hear appeals and amend their assessment; and the books of said commissioners shall be open to the inspection of the inhabitants, free of charge.

201. The said commissioners, or a majority of them, may, in all cases where they have reason to believe that any property in said town is not assessed, or assessed below its market cash value, summon before them the owner, or agent or representatives of the

owner thereof, and inquire of him, under oath, and if necessary summon and examine other witnesses to ascertain the kinds, quantities, description and value of all such property.

202. In case of the refusal or neglect of any person so summoned to appear, or appearing, to testify fully as to such property, the commissioners may assess such property to such sum as they shall believe to be just from the best information they possess, and may add thereto or abate therefrom at any time before levying the annual tax, upon giving one week's notice to the party.

203. The said commissioners, or a majority of them, may levy taxes upon all the taxable property within the town for all corporate purposes, but the sum so levied shall in no case exceed the sum of twenty-five cents in every hundred dollars; and all taxes, fines, forfeitures- and penalties herein imposed, or imposed or levied by the commissioners of said town, may be collected by the bailiff of said town, in the same manner as county taxes by the county collectors.

204. The said commissioners shall establish some suitable place for their meetings, and give notice thereof, and shall have stated sessions for the transaction of business, once, or oftener, in each month.

205. They may make all such ordinances, by-laws and regulations for the good government, improvement and benefit of said town, as they shall deem proper, and to restrain disorders and disturbances, and prevent and abate all nuisances, and to carry into effect the powers hereby granted to them; Provided, said ordinances are not contrary to law; and may establish and enforce such penalties, fines and forfeitures for offences, as they may deem proper, not exceeding fifty dollars in any one case.